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Copy 6 of 7

24 August 1962

**MEMORANDUM FOR :** Deputy Director (Research)  
**SUBJECT :** High Temperature Wire Failures

1. I am attaching samples of Rockbestos 1200° insulated wire which has been tested at Lockheed up to 300°. As can be seen, the insulation has completely disintegrated at this temperature. The failure of this wire will necessitate the rewiring of the nacelle section of the A-12 aircraft. The only current solution is to sheath this wire in fibreglass sheaths and then wrap four wires to a bundle in metal mesh.
2. Rockbestos and American Supertemp are both suppliers of this wire, trade names Hicatemp HSS5-900 and Supertemp MHT, both rated at 1200°F operating temperature.
3. This wire is generally supplied throughout the aerospace industry, as far as is known, and therefore could be the source or potential source of major failures in missiles and aircraft but particularly in high temperature missile and space applications. It would appear to be mandatory that the industry be warned.
4. Rockbestos has been shown the test results and have neither rebuttal nor solutions at the moment.

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SIGNED

Engineering Consultant, OSA

**Attachment:**  
As stated

**Distribution:**  
162-DD/R  
3-MAD/SA  
4-TAES/OSA  
5-n/DD/OSA  
6-RB/OSA  
7-DD (Chrono)

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NRO review(s)

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